

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A delivery ~~system~~composition for delivery of an active molecule to a patient, said delivery system comprising a population of exopolysaccharide micelles comprising exopolysaccharide produced by a bacterium selected from the group of bacteria consisting of *Lactobacillus* strain R2C2, *Lactobacillus* strain Inix, *Lactobacillus* strain Esl, *Lactobacillus* strain K2, ~~*Candida kefir* and *Candida norvegensis*~~, each said micelle ~~defining~~ including a core for containing said active molecule.

2. - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 1, wherein said active molecule is selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA, protein, peptide, peptidomimetic, virus, bacteria, nutraceutical product and pharmaceutical agent.

5. (Currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 4, wherein said pharmaceutical agent is selected from the group consisting of analgesic, anesthetic, antibiotic, anticancer, anti-inflammatory, and antiviral.

6. (Currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 5, wherein said anticancer agent is selected from the group consisting of alkylating agents, alkyl sulfonates, aziridines, ethylenimines, methylamelamines, acetogenins, camptothecin, bryostatin, callistatin, CC-1065, cryptophycins, dolastatin ; duocarmycin, eleutherobin, pancratistatin, sarcodictyin, spongistatin, nitrogen mustards, nitrosureas, antibiotics, anti-metabolites, folic acid analogues, denopterin, methotrexate, pteropterin, trimetrexate, purine analogs, pyrimidine analogs, androgens, anti-adrenals, folic acid replenisher, aceglatone, aldophosphamide glycoside, aminolevulinic acid, amsacrine, bestrabucil, bisantrene, edatraxate, defofamine, demecolcine, diaziquone, elformithine, elliptinium acetate, epothilone, etoglucid, gallium nitrate, hydroxyurea, lentinan, lonidamine, maytansinoids, mitoguazone, mitoxantrone, mopidamol, nitracrine, pentostatin, phenamet, pirarubicin, podophyllinic acid, 2-ethylhydrazide, procarbazine, PSK, RTM, razoxane, rhizoxin, sizofiran, spirogermanium, tenuazonic acid, triaziquone, 2,2',2"-

trichlorotriethylamine, trichothecenes, urethan, vindesine, dacarbazine, mannomustine, mitobronitol, mitolactol, mitolactol, pipobroman, gacytosine, arabinoside, thiotepa, taxanes, chlorambucil, gemcitabine, 6-thioguanine, mercaptopurine, methotrexate, platinum, vinblastine, platinum, etoposide, ifosfamide, mitomycin C, mitoxantrone, vincristine, vinorelbine, navelbin, novantrone, teniposide, daunomycin, aminopterin, xeloda, ibandronate, CPT-11, topoisomerase inhibitor RFS 2000, difluoromethylornithine, retinoic acid, capecitabine, and anti-hormonal agents that act to regulate or inhibiting hormone action in hormonal dependent cancers.

7. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said anti-hormonal agent is an anti-estrogens or an anti-androgens selected from the group consisting of flutamide, nilutamide, bicalutamide, leuprolide, and goserelin, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, acids or derivatives thereof.

8. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said alkylating agents is selected from the group consisting of thiotepa and cyclophosphamide(CYTOXAN).

9. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said alkyl sulfonates is selected from the group consisting of busulfan, improsulfan and piposulfan.

10. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said aziridines is selected from the group consisting of benzodopa, carboquone, meturedopa, and uredopa.

11. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said methylamelamines is selected from the group consisting of altretamine, triethylenemelamine, triethylenethiophosphoramide and trimethylolomelamine.

12. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said acetogenins is selected from the group consisting of bullactacin and bullatacinone.

13. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said camptothecin is the synthetic analogue topotecan.

14. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said CC-1065 is selected from the group consisting of adozelesin carzelesin and bizelesin synthetic analogues thereof.

15. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said cryptophycins is selected from the group consisting of cryptophycin 1 and cryptophycin 8.

16. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said duocarmycin is selected from the group consisting of KW-2189 and CBI-TML.

17. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said nitrogen mustards is selected from the group consisting of chlorambucil, chlornaphazine, cholophosphamide, estramustine, ifosfamide, mechlorethamine, mechlorethamine oxide hydrochloride, melphalan, novembichin, phenesterine, prednimustine, trofosfamide and uracil mustard.

18. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said nitrosureas is selected from the group consisting of carmustine, chlorozotocin, fotemustine, lomustine, nimustine, ranimustine.

19. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said anti-metabolites is selected from methotrexate and 5-fluorouracil (5-FU).

20. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said purine analogs is selected from the group consisting of fludarabine, 6-mercaptopurine, thiamiprine and thioguanine.

21. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said pyrimidine analogs is selected from the group consisting of ancitabine, azacitidine, 6- azauridine, carmofur, cytarabine, dideoxyuridine, doxifluridine, enocitabine and floxuridine.

22. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said androgens is selected from the group consisting of calusterone, dromostanolone propionate, epitio stanol, mepitio stanane, testolactone.

23. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 6, wherein said anti-adrenals is selected from the group consisting of aminoglutethimide, mitotane and trilostane.

24. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 5, wherein said antibiotics is selected from the group consisting of enediyne antibiotics, aclacinomysins, actinomycin, anthramycin, azaserine, bleomycins, cactinomycin, carabycin, carminomycin, carzinophilin, chromomycins, dactinomycin, daunorubicin, detorubicin, 6-diazo-5-oxo-L-norleucine, doxorubicin, morpholino-doxorubicin, cyanomorpholino-doxorubicin, 2-pyrrolino-doxorubicin, deoxydoxorubicin, epirubicin, esorubicin, idarubicin, marcellomycin, mitomycins, mycophenolic acid, nogalamycin, olivomycins, peplomycin, poffiromycin, puromycin, quelamycin, rodorubicin, streptonigrin, streptozocin, tubercidin, ubenimex, zinostatin, and zorubicin.

25. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 24, wherein said enediyne antibiotics is selected from the group consisting of calicheamicin, dynemicin, esperamicin, neocarzinostatin chromophore and related chromoprotein enediyne antibiotic chromomophores.

26. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 25, wherein said calicheamicin is selected from the group consisting of calicheamicin γ_1 and calicheamicin O₁₁.

27. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 25, wherein said dynemicin is dynemicin A.

28. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The delivery ~~system~~composition of claim 1, wherein said micelles have a diameter varying from about 50 nanometers to about 700 nanometers.

29. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the delivery ~~system composition~~ of claim 1 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30. (Previously presented) An immunomodulator composition comprising the delivery system of claim 1 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31. (Withdrawn) A method for delivering an active molecule to a patient comprising the step of administering the composition of claim 29 to said patient.

32. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said administering can be ~~from~~ by a route selected from the group consisting ~~out of~~ of local, parenteral, peritoneal, mucosal, dermal, epidermal, subcutaneous, transdermal, intramuscular, nasal, oral, topical, vaginal, rectal, intra-ocular, intravenous, intra-arterial and by inhalation.

33. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing immunomodulation in a patient comprising the step of administering the composition of claim 30 to said patient.

34. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein said administering can be ~~from~~ by a route selected from the group consisting ~~out of~~ of local, parenteral, peritoneal, mucosal, dermal, epidermal, subcutaneous, transdermal, intramuscular, nasal, oral, topical, vaginal, rectal, intra-ocular, intravenous, intra-arterial and by inhalation.

35. - 38. (Canceled)

39. (Withdrawn, currently amended) A method for producing the delivery ~~system composition~~ of claim 1, comprising the step of incubating exopolysaccharide in a suitable medium for a time sufficient to form a micelle.

40. (Currently amended) The delivery ~~system composition~~ of claim 6, wherein said anticancer agent is a taxane.